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Utah news

Saturday, July 17, 2004



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'Yellow' power alert called for Dixie

Clouds, wind help Southern Utahns cut electricity

By **Nancy Perkins**

Deseret Morning News

ST. GEORGE — Overcast skies and gusty winds helped Washington County residents conserve power on a day when state and local energy officials issued a "Yellow Alert" for the area.

Conservation alerts, which are issued by the state Energy Office each day during the summer months for the Wasatch Front and Washington County, are based on local power needs, regional supplies and wholesale power prices.

Alerts include green (normal conservation), yellow (extra conservation) and red (critical conservation). Each alert recommends different ways to conserve energy.

"Our power demands are so different from the Wasatch Front's that we really needed our own alert criteria," said St. George city's power and water conservation coordinator Rene Fleming. "This is our second Yellow Alert, but I'm not sure people down here know about the program yet. I think we're going to have mixed results until we get the word out better."

Washington County's conservation alerts are based on the peak powerloads of St. George, she said.

During Yellow Alert days, residents are asked to make an extra efforts to conserve power between noon and 8 p.m. Running a dishwasher or doing laundry, for instance, should be done before or after those peak use hours, Fleming said.

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